

Appl. No. 10/758,218

Reply to Official Action mailed on 10/25/2006

Amendments to the Abstract

Please replace the abstract currently on file with the following replacement abstract:

A baggage handling unit ~~is disclosed~~ for retrofitting an existing passenger boarding bridge having a foundation. ~~The baggage handling unit~~ includes a walkway for coupling a terminal building access port and a rotunda of an existing passenger boarding bridge so as to support passenger movement therebetween. The walkway includes a baggage access port, and a baggage elevating element is mounted adjacent to the baggage access port of the walkway. The baggage handling unit also includes a support having a mounting end configured for engaging the foundation and a support end for supporting the rotunda of the existing passenger boarding bridge at a position that is horizontally displaced from the foundation. A mount is provided for fixedly coupling the baggage handling unit to the rotunda about a point opposite an aircraft engaging portion of the existing passenger boarding bridge, such that the baggage handling unit and the rotunda are structurally attached.